CLAIMS

1. Communications stack (COST1), for connection management, to be used in a communications system comprising at least two communicating application programs, said application programs each communicating over a connection (CON) via said communications stack (COST1), said communications stack (COST1) comprising the following means:

a. connection resetting means (CRM), adapted to reset said connection by closing all connection involved elements; and

b. signal reception means (SRM), adapted to receive at least one signal for managing said connection (CON),

c. connection persisting means (CPM), coupled with an input to an output of said connection resetting means (CRM) and adapted to keep said connection persistent, **CHARACTERISED IN THAT** said communications stack further (COST1) comprises the following means:

d. decision means (DM), coupled with an input to an output of said signal reception means (SRM) and with an output to an input of said connection resetting means (CRM) and adapted to delay said reset of said connection if said at least one signal is a terminated application signal and subsequently decide to persist said connection if a further said at least one signal is a successful application restart signal and said application restart signal is received before expiration of said delay.

2. Communications stack (COST1) according to claim 1, **CHARACTERISED IN THAT** said decision means (DM) additionally is adapted to change said delay based on a restart time of said application program.

3. Communication Network Element including a communication stack (COST1) as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2.

4. Communication Network Element according to claim 3, **CHARACTERISED IN THAT** said Communication Network Element is a Border Gateway Protocol Router (ROU).

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